

Mr. J. O. Hall, lately acting British Consul at Yokohama, is appointed acting Assistant Judge at Shanghai, replacing Mr. Geo. Jamieson. Mrs. Hall is an old resident in Shanghai, being a daughter of the late Judge Goodwin.

A TYPHOON.

A real typhoon seems to have broken loose at last. About the beginning of this week, Dr. Dobrock said that, according to a certain paragraph in a certain work of his, a typhoon had possibly entered the China Sea in a low latitude. As all the steamers that arrived from Singapore since then reported fine weather and calm seas throughout, we have this Dr. Dobrock's "out" in his vagabond state, or at any rate a little "previous." Now, however, we have got a definite message from Bolinao, kindly sent us by the Spanish Consul, which is to the following effect:—

"A typhoon is raging in the N.W. of Luzon."

Whether this is Dr. Dobrock's typhoon, which after all did not enter the China Sea in a low latitude, but got bottled up at Luzon for a week, we cannot say, as we have not got a copy of the learned Dr.'s wonderful work beside us.

EXTRAORDINARY SERIES OF ACCIDENTS AT A FIRE.

A remarkable series of accidents illustrating very strikingly the dangers attendant on the work of the Fire Brigades occurred at a fire last night. The scene of the fire was Queen's Road West. About eight o'clock the house number 55, the lower portion of which was occupied as a drug store and watchmaker's shop, was seen to be on fire. The flames spread with extraordinary rapidity; and, besides making the destruction of the house itself inevitable, they soon enveloped the adjoining buildings. Before the Brigades reached the spot four houses were burning; and, as it was evident that nothing could be done to save them, the efforts of the brigades were confined to preventing the fire from spreading further. In this, after a good deal of hard work, they were fortunately successful. Copious streams of water had been poured on the burning buildings and those adjoining for nearly an hour and a half before the brigades diminished their exertions, and even after that time great care had to be taken to guard against any fresh outbreak. There had been considerable danger of the fire spreading backwards to Boshan Strand, but this was averted by a detachment of the Government Brigade, under Assistant Superintendent Horspool, who played on the fire from a narrow lane at the back of the burning houses. Shortly before nine o'clock, when all danger appeared to be past, the brigade men and spectators, of whom there was a large number, were startled by the walls of the burnt-out house giving way and falling with a tremendous noise. This happened so suddenly that there was barely time for the brigade men who were standing under them to get out of the way. That they did succeed in getting clear of the falling walls was almost a miracle, and indeed there was for some time a feeling almost amounting to certainty that a number of men must have been buried among the ruins. What more immediately engaged the attention of the brigade men was the safety of two of their number, Phelps and Beaton, who were on the top of one of the houses when they fell. By a most fortunate chance, however, both men escaped the fate that was felt certain must be theirs. Beaton succeeded in springing on to the verandah of an adjoining house just as he felt the one he was on giving way, but in doing so cut himself badly about the head. Phelps was hurled down with the masonry and buried under it, falling a distance of about forty feet. By another miracle some wooden beams fell in such a way as to form a roof over him, and as eventually was to be shielded by this that when his comrades had cleared an opening for him through the debris he stepped out unharmed. Other supposed victims were two Chinese members of the Government Brigade. One of these was standing near Assistant Foreman Phelps when the collapse occurred and fell on the street as safely as a cat. Thesecond Chinaman was seen to be standing on a verandah just before it fell. While a search was being made for him he unexpectedly appeared among the searchers, safe and sound. His escape was due to the fact that he felt the verandah giving way and stepped into the building just in time to save himself from being thrown down on the street. As might be expected, it was with a feeling of profound thankfulness that it was found no loss of life had occurred.

But the most surprising accident of the evening was yet to occur. Scarcely had the brigade men recovered from the shock of the first fall of walls when another crash was heard, caused by another falling of walls. A body of the Volunteer Brigade were playing on the still burning portions of the buildings from the top of the mass of ruins and their position exposed them to considerable danger. A number of them narrowly escaped being overwhelmed in the falling masonry, but it was believed they had all got away without any serious damage. It was not so, however; one of their number, Mr. R. P. Dipple, was at that time suddenly buried beneath a mass of the fallen material. What was more remarkable was that his position was unknown to any but himself for more than three hours; and, most wonderful of all, he was at the end of that long period of entombment got out, not only alive but without more serious

injury than a number of cuts and bruises, although some of these are severe. He had been protected by the beams which fell over him, which, while relieving him of the crushing weight of material above, at the same time made a little space and enabled him to breathe, although with difficulty. One arm was free and could be moved about, but the rest of his body was held as in a vice. He was unable to make any noise that would attract the attention of those who would so willingly have saved him from his awful position had they known of it. The other members of the Volunteer Brigade had left the scene of the fire about ten o'clock. The fall was called as usual, and Mr. Dipple's absence was explained by the presumption that he had gone home. It is a thousand pities that no suspicion entered the head of any of the members as to Mr. Dipple's safety, but there appears to have been not the slightest apprehension of anything like what had really occurred. The second fall of walls included those of two houses of which the fire had not taken hold, and the possibility of more houses coming down led to orders being given to the brigade men not to expose themselves to danger more than was absolutely necessary. As usual a detachment of the Government Brigade remained to watch against any fresh outbreak after the work of subduing the fire had been accomplished, and it was by one of this party, Foreman Kemp, that Mr. Dipple's terrible plight was discovered. Foreman Kemp thought he heard a sound like moaning from the mass of ruins, and believing that one of the Chinese firemen had been buried beneath it at once set about clearing a way to the spot from which the sounds proceeded. This was about one o'clock. Some of the Chinese who were removing the fallen masonry spoke to the fireman, and Mr. Dipple's voice was heard answering, "I'm not a Chinaman, I'm an Englishman." The relieving party worked with a will and soon had Mr. Dipple out of the grave in which he had lain crushed and suffocating for three long hours that must have seemed an eternity. He is now in the Government Civil Hospital and is progressing as favourably as could be expected, and it is hoped that in a week he will be himself again. The house in which the fire broke out was occupied by Mr. Ng Man Kwan, and the lower floor was insured in the Straits Insurance Company's Office for \$12,000. The adjoining house, number 53, was insured in the same office for \$5,000. All the houses were of the ordinary Chinese type, containing shops below and dwelling-houses above. During the time the fire was raging the number of spectators was very large, but excellent order was kept by a body of police under Captain Superintendent Deane.

FRAGRANT WATERS' MOURN.
That the chief excitement of the week, if any, have been the repeated thunder-bursts and rain-storms, with an occasional imaginary typhoon thrown in. That altogether the condition of one or other of the elements is, for the time being, unfavourable: when there is no fire there is a water-spout, and vice versa. That for this season of the year fires are uncommonly frequent, and it is high time the Fire Brigade were put on a proper footing; but this is a subject I cannot touch upon without boiling over. That Mr. J. S. Brewer has done much for the Brigade, and seems to have got little credit or thanks for it, and being of a bashful nature he resists all attempts to be drawn on the subject. That at last night's fire the escape of some members of the Brigade with their lives was miraculous, and as it is, one or two of the Volunteers were seriously hurt. That the Government ought really to shut their eyes no longer to the fact that in nearly every case of fire it is reported and believed by the Chinese best capable of knowing that the shop in which the fire originated is much over-insured. That the pressing need for an Inquest into the cause of every fire that occurs here is thereby clearly demonstrated. That the coming election is not an excitement worth mentioning, even although the decision appears to be more doubtful now than when I last wrote. That the only interest in this matter is now centred in the three or four odd men who are said to have given an evasive answer to the supporters of both candidates, and whose votes are expected to turn the scale on the Laytonian or Franciscan side. That I still adhere to my opinion, that the merchant will be the successful candidate. That the opinions expressed last week about the unwise action of the Dock Directors in the *Arday* case have not given universal satisfaction to the Board, although a large number of shareholders have warmly approved the ventilation of the subject by Captain Stuart and your humble servant. That it ought to be a very simple matter for the Board to put themselves right with the shareholders and the public on this subject. That Ramour has it that the operations for floating the *Arday* are proceeding to the satisfaction of those concerned. That the question one meets with now is, What is the next stock to be set upon by the Bears?

That I see Labouchere alleges that Abdul Hak of Hyderabad Mining Company notoriety, sent eight brokers into the Stock Exchange of London at public time to bid up the shares, and that they were

all bought in two blocks with consecutive numbers from one jobber. That, as there are many jobbers and legions of brokers, of all sorts here, with many stocks, Boards of Directors and Consulting Committees, the question may well be put, How is the Stock Exchange worked in these parts? That, a remedy frequently proposed is a meeting out of the fraternity by the inauguration of a system of sworn brokers. That Directors and members of Consulting Committees would probably also have to be sworn to secrecy. That, at the same time, members of Consulting Committees are often quoted as authorities when they have never opened their lips. That the suggestion to offer a prize for the biggest "bungler" told on the local Bourse has been often made, and as frequently withdrawn, the competition is already much too keen.

That no doubt I shall be accused of ill-natured cynicism, but all the same, the fact is there and it is one which the Community cannot afford to disregard much longer. That much might be said concerning the way public affairs are being run in this Colony, on the one hand principle—there is only one Allah, and Mahomet is his prophet; but it will, perhaps, be better to wait events. That many of the cargo-boats are still without licenses, and only a few of the boat-coolies have as yet been photographed; but I am glad to hear the mere threat of the Police Magistracy proved sufficient to bring prizes down to the authorized scale.

That Government are bound to support those shippers who have decided, if the opportunity is afforded them, to take a stand against the extortion of the boat-people, and it would appear that this view has at last dawned upon the Guild. That the words of Judge Russell should be deeply impressed upon every Chinese in this Colony, and the orderly and law-abiding native ought to re-echo them and make the Celestials understand that, once a man comes under the British flag, no one can coerce him into going anywhere against his will. That the Law alone can coerce, and even this coercion is permissible only on account of a break of the law and upon "proof of guilt," carried out for the welfare of the community. That from all I can hear the observations of the Acting Chief Justice are but too well founded, this practice of waylaying having lately been enormously on the increase.

That the stories told are both romantic and incredible, but that they must have some foundation of truth, and one feels ill at ease when one thinks over the repeated failures to convict in cases where Chinese alone are implicated. That the recent death of the coolie in Second Street, who was alleged to have been beaten because he refused to emigrate, and the escape of the rascals concerned with the ill-usage, are not reassuring, as they indicate the poor grip we have over the lower classes of Chinese. That although the *esprit de corps* in the Police Force would have been better observed had the case of the two "littigant" "Bobbies" been settled out of Court, it stands to reason that no rule of the service can interfere with a man's rights at common law.

That although the Sanitary Board have not favoured the public lately with any of those lucid, comprehensive and eminently satisfactory Minutes of their valuable deliberations, it is generally believed that the so-called Municipal Board of Health still exists.

That it is also beyond dispute that the smells on Praya Central are, if anything, more tangible than ever.

That if I had been a member of the Sanitary Board I would have done as Lord Wolseley did, threatened to resign, and I would have varied his programme by actually resigning a body which has been long "in suspense" waiting for a new corporation and new clothes, and has never got them.

That the poor Sanitary Board, individually and collectively, is very much to be pitied.

That the vile traffic in samshoo is again in swing in the Harbour, and poor Jack of course gets into trouble as the sparks fly upwards. That it would be interesting to know why the Thames experiment of plying tea and coffee launches should not be tried in Hongkong. That the liquor-smugglers here are ingenious, and a new dodge has been hit upon; small boats go round the Harbour with jars of water for sale, but in some of the jars the fire-water for Jack is found and made a note of. That things are revealing a curious phase in England when we read that Mr. Dadabhai Nowrojee will stand at the next General Election in the Liberal interest for Central Finsbury. That Dr. Ho Kai or Mr. Ho Anoi as Member for Greenwich would sound well in the course of time, when the Federation of the Empire is complete. That the attempt to exclude Chinese immigrants from the Australian Colonies does not become much clearer from the light thrown upon it by official telegrams. That if our only General here could but lift up his voice (it is a good voice without)

in our Councils as Lord Wolseley has done in the Gilded Chamber, he could at least unfold about unpropitiously and empty embassies that would round as dim as the recent speech in the House of Lords. That it is hard to say whether our General ever threatened to resign and go into Parliament in the Reform interest, though the fatal dilatoriness of the Home officials is enough to drive him to do something rash; but I have heard that he has really resigned himself—to circumstances and the stern logic of facts.

That we in Hongkong have a heavy score to settle with the Home Government; but that, if so much has yet to be done at Home for the defence of the heart of the Empire, we may have to wait many weary months before we can see those promise-burning guns.

That we don't want to fight, but, by Jingo, if we do—we have but very few guns to fight with. That I must look about for a comfortable handbox, with cotton wool lining, if things come to the worst. That the Colony will, I sincerely hope, be saved from any greater calamity than the visit of the Astronomical Doctor's typhoons till I have made my pile out of the yellow gold of Pungo and the black diamonds of Tonquin, and can take ship in one of the sixty-knot liners to some distant and beautiful isle of the sea. That the old *Victor Emanuel*, with her drafty upper and lower decks, has invalidated a large number of our gallant sailors of late years, and she should be relegated to the care of "Old Day" or some other salt-water deity, while proper quarters should be built at Kowloon for the Commodore and his staff.

That probably this view of the case has never struck the wise men of Whitehall, as Hospital records go for nothing when money has to be spent.

BROWNIE.

LATE HOME NEWS.
We take the following items from late Home papers brought on by the German mail:—

ATHENS, April 15th.—The Greek Government yesterday signed a Convention with the *Société Internationale* for the construction of a railway which will connect the central portion of the Peloponnese with the chief ports of that portion of the kingdom.

The Turkish authorities recently deprived the Greek Metropolitan of Macedonia of his diocese, and has been prosecuting several leading Greeks of that province on a charge of conspiring with the Greek Consuls against the interests of Turkey in Macedonia. It is alleged that these accusations are false, and a good deal of ill-feeling has been roused here and elsewhere against the Turks in consequence.

THE SULTAN AND THE ARMENIANS.
Constantinople, April 14.—The Armenians are much annoyed at the Sultan's having nominated a "march lion" rank to Ali Chahab Effendi, the renegade Armenian who is the author of the present misunderstanding between his Majesty and his Armenian subjects. The Sultan, moreover, has refused the offer of an Armenian cemetery adjacent to his Yildiz property, which he some short time ago was anxious to incorporate in the same.

In these circles these acts are interpreted as a declaration of war upon their community, and they have produced the worst possible effect. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has called upon the Patriarch to disavow the action of the Armenian Patriotic Association in London in presenting a memorial to the Sultan. The Patriarch, however, stands himself with the remark that he had already taken this step on a previous occasion, and consequently he could see no advantage in repeating the intimation.

EXPULSION OF JEWS FROM RUSSIA.
Odessa, 13th April.—Two thousand foreign Jews have received a week's notice to quit the city, at the expiration of which they will be expelled. The foreign Jews—perhaps it would be more correct to say the Jews domiciled here on foreign passports, by birth—consist of about 10,000 families, and the members of these families are computed at the lowest figure at about 30,000. They are probably more—nearly 45,000. The police are busily examining all passports. According to private or business connections the expulsory notices allow various short periods of respite, for the settlement of business and property affairs. Numbers of the Jews are hiring from the Government the right to be expelled. The greatest hardship falls upon the Roumanian Jews. After the Roumanians, the greater number of the foreign Jews now being expelled are Austrian subjects. I should explain that a great proportion of them are essentially Roumanian, but within the last ten years they have been driven to the frontier by themselves and their families. The Russian Government have naturally the right to object to their families, and the Russian Government have not the means to support them, and they must remember at least these people have been driven to evasion by crushing disabilities, and their infamous treatment in many provinces by the fanaticism of their Russian neighbours.

One of the foreign Jews under notice of expulsion is a local manufacturer, employing between 800 and 1,000 workpeople of both sexes. The people will of course be thrown out of employment by the closing of the manufactory. The better to succeed in their search the police have divided the city into four sections, in each of which the passport holders are controlled by a kind of sub-police command, the number of which are held responsible for the house to house investigation made by their subordinates. The measure of expulsion will shut up one-third of the second and third class commercial houses of this important centre, the principals of which are demoted on foreign passports. It will under ordinary circumstances deprive a generation to supply the places of these people, who maintain a large share of the commercial prosperity of the city. The authorities are carrying out the expulsion orders with all possible despatch and by a gradual procedure, in order not to excite the remark and commotion which a wholesale exodus would call for. It will regard the question of the exodus as it will shortly affect the general commerce of this and other industrial centres, it appears on the part of the authorities to be a complete instance of cutting off the nose to spite the face.

TRIAL OF AN ENGLISHMAN AT BUCHAREST.
Vienna, April 14.—An Englishman, who acted as agent in Bucharest for several English firms, was yesterday arrested, and awaits trial, for complicity in corruption in the case of two brothers, called Maica. An action against one of the brothers, General Maica, former Under Secretary in the Roumanian War Office, ended on Wednesday night in his condemnation to degradation and ten months' arrest. The report of the trial shows the part the accused had in it. He confessed to have bribed the ex-War Minister, Lupulescu, with twenty-five thousand francs—a sum which was refunded to him after the matter came out—and further to have given a thousand francs to Captain Mardare, fifteen thousand francs to General Maica, who, however, demanded thirty thousand, and not receiving that sum, threatened to withdraw his protection. Letters were produced, signed "Louise," which Maica wrote to the accused, referring to a contract for five million cartridges, and demanding a provision for himself of five thousand francs, or altogether five thousand francs, and not receiving that sum, threatened to withdraw his protection. Letters were produced, signed "Louise," which Maica wrote to the accused, referring to a contract for five million cartridges, and demanding a provision for himself of five thousand francs, or altogether five thousand francs, and not receiving that sum, threatened to withdraw his protection.

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The Times of 16th April says:—We have had lately a superabundance of pictures of the Japanese, but never till now have we had a whole exhibition devoted to the representation of Japanese life by an English artist. This morning, however, at Messrs Dowdell's gallery in New Bond Street, such an exhibition is opened to the public; and if we are not mistaken it will be the talk of the town until the Academy opens. Mr. Mortimer Menpes, who has produced these little pictures, drawings, and etchings, is probably the first European artist who has deliberately visited Japan with the intention of making a prolonged study of the life and the art of the people. He did so last year, staying in that country for nine months, and the result of his study is displayed in this charming exhibition. With his work our readers have from time to time been made acquainted, for we have often called attention to his extremely clever sketches and "impressions," sometimes of French or English children, sometimes of Japanese single figures. Beginning his artistic life as a pupil of Mr. Poynter at South Kensington, he did not remain long under the influence of his master, but learned new methods in France and elsewhere. Like many another modern artist, he was early seized by a passion for Japanese art; he carried his love to a more practical extent than the others, and went to Japan while they remained in the East, and talked about the Japanese. The show that he has provided for admirers of the art is extremely correct; the room is hung with silk of the "chrysanthemum pink" which is so much affected by the Japanese, an awning of white-brown linen softens the light, and a floor-cloth of special pale gray keeps all the rest in harmony. The little pictures are hung in calculated disorder; their frames—of four tints of gold—were all made in Japan, where the common workmen take an artist's pleasure in their work. Of course, all this would be tiresome if the paintings themselves were not very good indeed, but Mr. Menpes knows this perfectly, and has put his best into his work. He is a born colourist; witness such pictures as "The Scarlet Umbrella" or the lowland "Sandpiper" or the "Lacquer-shop" or any of the street-scenes which abound in the exhibition. The dancing-girls, with their brilliant dresses, have attracted him a good deal, as in the "Three Little Maids from School" which is a von trier to Japanese life than the famous trier in *The Mikado*. One department which Mr. Menpes has neglected is that of the Temple scenes, which every traveller in Japan finds so strangely picturesque. Sometimes, too, he fails to give the curious and distinctive Japanese physiognomy; but generally he succeeds in this as in the other elements of the problem before him.

With the pictures and drawings are exhibited two portfolios of etchings and "dry-points," which well deserve attention. Here Mr. Menpes's debt to Mr. Whistler is very apparent, but in many of the younger ones quite equalled the older artist. Such plates as "Osaka," "The Venice of Japan," "Three Fair Ladies," and "Baby and Baby" are touched with extraordinary lightness, and yet are singularly effective. Some of the "dry-points" are so delicate that very few impressions can be taken from the plates, and these have to be printed with extreme care.

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St. Petersburg, April 12.—In financial circles here it is believed that the arrival in St. Petersburg of the Chief Director of the Paris Comptoir d'Escompte has reference to a projected new Russian loan. The censorship has stopped all telegrams giving utterance to this belief.

THE FLOODS IN GERMANY.
Berlin, April 13.—A Bill has been prepared for presentation to the Lower House of the Prussian Diet authorising the raising of a loan of 34,000,000 marks for the purpose connected with the recent inundations. Of this sum 20,000,000 marks are to be devoted to assisting individuals and communities, 8,000,000 marks to the reconstruction of the dykes and of the river banks, and 6,000,000 marks to the restoration of the railways which have been destroyed, and for other works which may be deemed necessary.

MR. COLLETT'S DEPARTURE.
The Russian traveller, General Pejorally, is shortly to quit London for Japan, and is to be accompanied by his wife and two children. He will be accompanied by Captain Bobrovsky and an escort of twelve Cossacks. The steamship *Yeni*, of Antwerp, sank, after collision with the *Edin*, off the Godwin Sands on 16th April, fourteen of her crew being drowned. The premises of the Birmingham Liberal Club, which were erected two years ago at a cost of 64,000l., were brought under the auctioneer's hammer on the 16th April; the Club having failed, and been wound up owing to dissenation in the Liberal Party in the borough. The property was purchased for 23,000l., or 10.0.0. less than the sum paid for the site alone three years ago. The Home Rulers of Birmingham are making vigorous efforts to obtain candidates for those divisions of the borough which are represented by the principal Unionists. Mr. Bright, who sits for the Central Division, will be opposed by the President of the Birmingham Liberal Association, Mr. A. O. Oaker. The Home Secretary will be attacked in East Birmingham by Mr. Willis. O. O. Endeavors are being made to induce Mr. John Morley to fight for Mr. Chamberlain's seat in the Western Division. Mr. Kenrick's seat will also be assailed, but it is possible that Mr. Collett, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Powell Williams will have little or no opposition.

The impression that the article in the current number of the *Victorian Century* is a new form of the pan of Mr. Matthew Arnold is erroneous. His last article will appear in the *Century* magazine for May. It consists of the address on John Milton which Mr. Arnold delivered on February 13th last in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, on the occasion of the unveiling of the window presented by Mr. George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, in memory of the poet's second wife. Mr. Arnold, in a fine panegyric, describes Milton as the one English writer of the highest rank who wrote in the great style of the ancients.

Fifty shipwrights of the large number recently hired at Devonport Dockyard

THE SUGAR TRADE.
London, April 14.—An international conference of persons connected with the sugar

trade will be held here in Whitman week. It is expected that from 600 to 800 delegates from Germany and foreign countries will be present.

SOUTH AFRICA.
Cape Town, April 14.—Owing to the menacing attitude of the Boers and the fact that the Cape Government is about to despatch a detachment of Cape Mounted Rifles for the protection of the Europeans at Walvisch Bay. The admiral in command of the station has been requested to furnish a gunboat for the conveyance of the troops.

THE EMPEROR OF BRAZIL.
Vienna, April 15.—Rumours having been circulated as to the Emperor of Brazil's intention to abdicate, it must be stated that they are absolutely denied here, and it is authoritatively asserted that His Majesty will very shortly return to Brazil, where most important State matters await his consideration.

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trade will be held here in Whitman week. It is expected that from 600 to 800 delegates from Germany and foreign countries will be present.

SOUTH AFRICA.
Cape Town, April 14.—Owing to the menacing attitude of the Boers and the fact that the Cape Government is about to despatch a detachment of Cape Mounted Rifles for the protection of the Europeans at Walvisch Bay. The admiral in command of the station has been requested to furnish a gunboat for the conveyance of the troops.

THE EMPEROR OF BRAZIL.
Vienna, April 15.—Rumours having been circulated as to the Emperor of Brazil's intention to abdicate, it must be stated that they are absolutely denied here, and it is authoritatively asserted that His Majesty will very shortly return to Brazil, where most important State matters await his consideration.

AN ENGLISH ARTIST IN JAPAN.
The Times of 16th April says:—We have had lately a superabundance of pictures of the Japanese, but never till now have we had a whole exhibition devoted to the representation of Japanese life by an English artist. This morning, however, at Messrs Dowdell's gallery in New Bond Street, such an exhibition is opened to the public; and if we are not mistaken it will be the talk of the town until the Academy opens. Mr. Mortimer Menpes, who has produced these little pictures, drawings, and etchings, is probably the first European artist who has deliberately visited Japan with the intention of making a prolonged study of the life and the art of the people. He did so last year, staying in that country for nine months, and the result of his study is displayed in this charming exhibition. With his work our readers have from time to time been made acquainted, for we have often called attention to his extremely clever sketches and "impressions," sometimes of French or English children, sometimes of Japanese single figures. Beginning his artistic life as a pupil of Mr. Poynter at South Kensington, he did not remain long under the influence of his master, but learned new methods in France and elsewhere. Like many another modern artist, he was early seized by a passion for Japanese art; he carried his love to a more practical extent than the others, and went to Japan while they remained in the East, and talked about the Japanese. The show that he has provided for admirers of the art is extremely correct; the room is hung with silk of the "chrysanthemum pink" which is so much affected by the Japanese, an awning of white-brown linen softens the light, and a floor-cloth of special pale gray keeps all the rest in harmony. The little pictures are hung in calculated disorder; their frames—of four tints of gold—were all made in Japan, where the common workmen take an artist's pleasure in their work. Of course, all this would be tiresome if the paintings themselves were not very good indeed, but Mr. Menpes knows this perfectly, and has put his best into his work. He is a born colourist; witness such pictures as "The Scarlet Umbrella" or the lowland "Sandpiper" or the "Lacquer-shop" or any of the street-scenes which abound in the exhibition. The dancing-girls, with their brilliant dresses, have attracted him a good deal, as in the "Three Little Maids from School" which is a von trier to Japanese life than the famous trier in *The Mikado*. One department which Mr. Menpes has neglected is that of the Temple scenes, which every traveller in Japan finds so strangely picturesque. Sometimes, too, he fails to give the curious and distinctive Japanese physiognomy; but generally he succeeds in this as in the other elements of the problem before him.

With the pictures and drawings are exhibited two portfolios of etchings and "dry-points," which well deserve attention. Here Mr. Menpes's debt to Mr. Whistler is very apparent, but in many of the younger ones quite equalled the older artist. Such plates as "Osaka," "The Venice of Japan," "Three Fair Ladies," and "Baby and Baby" are touched with extraordinary lightness, and yet are singularly effective. Some of the "dry-points" are so delicate that very few impressions can be taken from the plates, and these have to be printed with extreme care.

A NEW RUSSIAN LOAN.
St. Petersburg, April 12.—In financial circles here it is believed that the arrival in St. Petersburg of the Chief Director of the Paris Comptoir d'Escompte has reference to a projected new Russian loan. The censorship has stopped all telegrams giving utterance to this belief.

THE FLOODS IN GERMANY.
Berlin, April 13.—A Bill has been prepared for presentation to the Lower House of the Prussian Diet authorising the raising of a loan of 34,000,000 marks for the purpose connected with the recent inundations. Of this sum 20,000,000 marks are to be devoted to assisting individuals and communities, 8,000,000 marks to the reconstruction of the dykes and of the river banks, and 6,000,000 marks to the restoration of the railways which have been destroyed, and for other works which may be deemed necessary.

MR. COLLETT'S DEPARTURE.
The Russian traveller, General Pejorally, is shortly to quit London for Japan, and is to be accompanied by his wife and two children. He will be accompanied by Captain Bobrovsky and an escort of twelve Cossacks. The steamship *Yeni*, of Antwerp, sank, after collision with the *Edin*, off the Godwin Sands on 16th April, fourteen of her crew being drowned. The premises of the Birmingham Liberal Club, which were erected two years ago at a cost of 64,000l., were brought under the auctioneer's hammer on the 16th April; the Club having failed, and been wound up owing to dissenation in the Liberal Party in the borough. The property was purchased for 23,000l., or 10.0.0. less than the sum paid for the site alone three years ago. The Home Rulers of Birmingham are making vigorous efforts to obtain candidates for those divisions of the borough which are represented by the principal Unionists. Mr. Bright, who sits for the Central Division, will be opposed by the President of the Birmingham Liberal Association, Mr. A. O. Oaker. The Home Secretary will be attacked in East Birmingham by Mr. Willis. O. O. Endeavors are being made to induce Mr. John Morley to fight for Mr. Chamberlain's seat in the Western Division. Mr. Kenrick's seat will also be assailed, but it is possible that Mr. Collett, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Powell Williams will have little or no opposition.

The impression that the article in the current number of the *Victorian Century* is a new form of the pan of Mr. Matthew Arnold is erroneous. His last article will appear in the *Century* magazine for May. It consists of the address on John Milton which Mr. Arnold delivered on February 13th last in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, on the occasion of the unveiling of the window presented by Mr. George W. Childs, of Philadelphia, in memory of the poet's second wife. Mr. Arnold, in a fine panegyric, describes Milton as the one English writer of the highest rank who wrote in the great style of the ancients.

Fifty shipwrights of the large number recently hired at Devonport Dockyard

THE SUGAR TRADE.
London, April 14.—An international conference of persons connected with the sugar

trade will be held here in Whitman week. It is expected that from 600 to 800 delegates from Germany and foreign countries will be present.

MY LITTLE NEIGHBOUR.

(Victor Hugo.)

If you nothing have to say,
Why so often come this way?
Roses and blue eyes smiling,
Stranger heads than mine beguiling,
From their seats and their balconies,
Telling me charming little things,
If you nothing have to say,
Why so often come this way?

If you nothing have to teach,
Why not precise as you preach?
Little hands so soft and pressing,
Tossing hair and half-closing eyes,
Saucy lips, and sparkling eyes,
Needs must have a reason why;
If you nothing have to teach,
Why not precise as you preach?

If you say I have not won you,
Why not sweet, let me shun you.
Now my looks and nose are thrown,
You read, and you alone;
If you are denying,
Why then hinder me from flying?
If you say I have not won you,
Why not, sweet, let me shun you?

TREASURE TROVE.

ROMANTIC STORY OF ROBBERY IN ABBEY.

Over a small stream, about thirty miles from Constantinople, a bridge which has its full measure of fame in its way. It is a narrow bridge, and along the marshy banks of the stream that crosses grow the bushes and shrubs that are used to make charcoal in the powder factory near St. George, and the water-course is partly fed from a fountain which is what was called the Devil's Cave, which is a little way from the bridge. At the foot of the bridge, on the right bank, there is a small Turkish house, in which four Turkish soldiers are stationed—poor, thin, fever-worn wretches who have to hold their guns as the time approaches for their chills to come on, and who all together could not muster strength enough to oppose any one who felt inclined to resist their authority in this fever-stricken spot. The mouth of the Devil's Cave is within sight of the bridge, and instead of attributing the fever, so prevalent in the neighborhood, to the marshy ground and stagnant water, the people have a superstition that it came from the influence of the evil spirits which dwell in this cave, which is regarded with fear and terror by all who have ever heard of it, or who live in this vicinity. There are stories current of the piercing screams and doleful groans to be heard after midnight within its gloomy shades, and no one who lives there could be forced to enter after dark.

In 1865, or thereabouts, something happened which called attention very strongly toward this very cave and its vicinity. The taxes from the interior of Turkey and her dependencies are collected by men appointed for the purpose, and the money, in silver, is placed in strong bags made of netted hempen twine, and these bags are slung across mules or donkeys, and are carried in a train of sixty mules, each charged with silver, en route to Constantinople. To protect the bridge at Yermoupolis these four Turkish soldiers are stationed; and up to the period of which we speak there had been no robbery at this bridge, though the one on the other side of the hill had been the scene of many bloody murders, and the name of the Sultan Abdul Medjid was not rubbed; but once when the train bearing the treasure came down the road to pass the bridge, it seemed as if in a second the earth grew into like mushrooms, out of nothing. The guard was overpowered, some of the escort were put to flight and some were killed, and the mules and treasure disappeared in the darkness.

Of course there was a great stir made, and the country was scoured far and wide. Omar Pasha, who lived but a few miles from the spot, took a guard of soldiers and went to this cave, but he could find no trace of the treasure, the mules or the robbers; and finally two or three persons had been captured and tortured to make them tell something of which they were entirely innocent. When, later, it became known that the Sultan's jewel room had been robbed in broad daylight of a large tray of most valuable antique jewels, all Turkey was thrown into a fever of excitement. It was the Sultan Abdul Medjid who was robbed; who was known and loved for his gentleness and nobleness. He had been to his prayers, like all good Mussulmans, and then to his dinner; and while at dinner his jewel room had been entered and this tray of jewels carried off.

There was no one whom the officers could suspect, no one could have approached the Sultan's jewel-room unperceived, unless it were two Croats who worked near that part of the garden of the palace that day. These two unfortunates, who were brothers, were seized and searched. Not the slightest thing was found in their possession which would tend to criminate them, but still it was thought that they might have had confederates, and they were given over to the prison authorities, who put them to torture again and again on the rack to make them confess, but always useless. But at last the chief prison authority thought of a method of making them confess, knowing them to be brothers. He had them brought out together and announced his intention of applying "the bell" to the younger brother, hoping that the elder would speak to save his brother, though he would not for himself.

The bell was made of iron, shaped like a hog's head, and about the same size, and hung upon a cord held by an immense crane. The bell was heated red-hot, and let down over the doomed man's head to the floor, inclosing him in its fiery embrace. Whether the brothers were innocent or not no one ever knew. They both denied, and both passed under the bell. One, the elder, died in its fiery torture; while the other was burned, that his face, hands and arms were horribly disfigured over afterward, and he was left totally blind. His lips were burned away, leaving his white teeth showing forever in a horrid, mocking smile. The treasure was not discovered, and no one ever thought of connecting the two robbers. Whoever had committed them was evidently afraid to make use of the results, and the whole affair was hidden in absolute mystery. The unfortunate Croat was allowed to beg his bread in the Grand Rue de Pera, partly to strike terror to the hearts of possible malefactors, and partly because the prison-keepers, hard-hearted as they are, could not bear to submit the poor wretch to further torture. There may be some who think that nobody is put to torture in these days, but the writer of this article had a cousin by marriage hung up by his heels, with his head in a tank of boiling quicklime, until all his hair and scalp were burned off, and his eyes were destroyed. This was the youth of nineteen, and he was suspected by the Turks of carrying despatches during the late Russo-Turkish war for the benefit of the Russians. He is now insane in the hospital at the Seven Towers.

After the horrible torture of the two Croats, there were few arrests, and no torturing. One night a poor young fellow who kept a very small tobacco shop in St. George, where he sold tobacco to the men who worked in Baroutji Bashi's powder factory in the valley below the village of St. George, which crowns the hill, had a dream. It was a remarkable dream, and he thought a good deal of it during the day. But the

young man—George by name—was by nature a very silent person, and so he never spoke of it. The next night he dreamed again, and the next night—always the same. He seemed to see himself standing in front of the little foot-bridge which spanned the stream which came from the Devil's Cave and somehow he felt as if he knew that the stolen money and jewels were all lying there for him to take. He did not stop to question the right or wrong of it. He only considered that he had had a revelation from the other world, and that he had a right to do what the spirits had given the sign of.

The third day he arose and went to the village priest, for he was a devout Greek in religion, and got a little holy water; and with that, some charms in each shoe and bits of holy relics around his neck, he felt safe from any evil spirits which might inhabit the Devil's Cave, and waiting until dark he made his way directly to the little foot-bridge. He reached it and sank to his knees in the marshy soil as he crept in under it and began to dig. In a few minutes he discovered the bags of silver money, and then searching among them, he came to a small iron box. He seemed to know that this contained the jewels, though he had no reason to suspect that they were there. At all events, he found the box, and taking that, he crept along to the entrance of the cave and entered there, feeling his way with the best he could until he came to the treasure which lay in the room above the main entrance. When he reached this room he looked about by the feeble glow of a tallow candle until he found a little niche, in which he hid his precious box, covering it with a bit of gum with which the floor was covered. Several days he waited, but he saw no sign of anyone coming, and he was beginning to grow impatient. After hiding the box, he went about carrying bags of silver in and hiding them in different places, covering them in the same way. He worked steadily at this until morning was about to dawn, when he returned to his home and slept nearly all day, pretending to be sick, when he had a recurrence not at all unusual with the people who inhabit that part of Turkey, with its malarial marshes. The following two nights he passed in the same way and by hard work managed to transport all the bags into the cave. When this was done, he went about getting a stock of provisions, and this he carried up to the place and hid. He was a smart, shrewd fellow, far beyond the average of his race, who are noted everywhere for their intelligence; and whether it was that he was one of those who rob the train no one can ever know, but he certainly could not have been a novice, so that in spite of the very natural distrust one might have in his singularly realized dream, there is always something to be said in his favor. But, be that as it may, he afterward said that he had been one of the party who had once with some engineers who were laying out the railroad for Adrianople, and he had explored this cave, and that he had been struck by the appearance of the lateral opening, and a day or so afterward he had returned alone, supplied with several reams of cord and lights and he had discovered what was evidently the real outlet. It was so straight that there was no difficulty in following it. He passed one whole day and part of the night in the whole day and part of the night in the outlet behind shrubs and rocks near the shore of St. Stefano. The secret would now give him safety in carrying off his treasure. He had brought a large boat which he bought in Constantinople.

He could not leave behind him, and that was a young Greek girl named Urania. She was betrothed to another man, but she loved George, and he, meeting her upon a lonely hillside near the cave, persuaded her to leave the flock she tended and follow him. During the following night strange pictures of the great world she would see, but he kept his word better than lovers generally do. Her disappearance added new terror to the cave. How long they were in getting the heavy treasure to the boat is not known; but they finally succeeded, and one morning night they set sail for Syria, a small island belonging to Greece. They reached there safely, were married at once, and procuring a suitable outfit, went to Piræus, where they took a French steamer for Marseilles. There they changed their bulky silver for gold, and went on to Paris, where George presented himself as a diamond merchant. He disposed of most of his jewels in Paris and the rest in London. From London the couple took a steamer for America, where they are living to-day, he being a very wealthy man, as it is natural to suppose. Sometimes he will be seen in the South, buying enormous quantities of cotton; again in the North, where he has immense interests in some of the important houses; but he has never been suspected of having known anything of these two robberies. His wife, the pretty Urania, has never had any children, and her whole life is rendered sad and unhappy by that fact, and also by her homesickness, a sorrow that can never be assuaged for she dare not return to her parents. She is literally dead to them. I have seen her in her carriage, blazing in jewels, and dressed in the most beautiful of garments, but her eyes were turned to the exile from every feature of her face. Not with her husband. He has no regrets. There is a sequel to this story, in that, when the Turkish Government did at last send a description of the lost jewels to different countries, it was too late; no could any one have ever dreamed of connecting the poor tobacco-seller of St. George with the rich diamond merchant of Paris and London. When the exhibition was held in Venice in 1875 there were two Turkish gentlemen sent in charge of the Sultan's jewels, which were exhibited on a billiard table. The Turk was presented with a great blank pearl—the finest of the kind ever seen—and a cockle shell of brilliant. This pearl had been one of the stolen jewels taken from the place of Sultan Abdul Medjid. Where it had been, who had been its owner all these years no one could say. Some one had stolen and lost it at the gaming-house, but from that day to this the mystery over these two robberies is as dense as ever.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

MAY 18.—AT 4 P.M.

W. of Tokyo	W. of Yokohama	W. of Kobe	W. of Osaka	W. of Kyoto	W. of Nippon	W. of Korea	W. of Japan
29.83	29.83	29.83	29.83	29.83	29.83	29.83	29.83
47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
ENE	ENE	ENE	ENE	ENE	ENE	ENE	ENE
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

MAY 19.—AT 10 A.M.

W. of Tokyo	W. of Yokohama	W. of Kobe	W. of Osaka	W. of Kyoto	W. of Nippon	W. of Korea	W. of Japan
29.83	29.83	29.83	29.83	29.83	29.83	29.83	29.83
68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
ENE	ENE	ENE	ENE	ENE	ENE	ENE	ENE
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

The barometer has fallen 1.1 inch along the S. coast of China. Gradients are moderate for S.W. winds in the lower part of the China Sea and very gentle elsewhere. Cloudy, warm and rather damp weather prevails.

W. DORRICK, Government Astronomer, Hongkong Observatory, May 19.

1. Barometer, reduced to 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and to the level of the sea in inches, tenths and hundredths.

2. Temperature, in the shade in degrees Fahrenheit.

3. Humidity, in percentage of saturation, the humidity of air saturated with moisture being 100.

4. Force of Wind, according to Beaufort Scale.

5. State of Weather, in blue sky, d, drizzling clouds, d, drizzling rain, p, passing showers, g, gale, r, rain, s, snow, t, thunder, v, visibility, a, dew (wet).

6. Rain, in inches, tenths and hundredths.

Government Notification.

No. 60.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT.

The following Rules regarding signalling at the Peak are published for general information.

By Command, H. B. STEWART, Colonial Secretary, Hongkong, 17th February, 1888.

SIGNAL STATION, VICTORIA PEAK, HONGKONG.

1823 Feet above Sea Level.

1. The Union Jack will be hoisted at the Mast Head when any vessel is being signalled.

2. The Commercial Code of Signals for all Nations will be used at the Station.

3. All Signals made by vessels in the Offing will be repeated.

4. When Signalling to Men-of-War in the Harbour or in the Offing, a White Ensign will be hoisted at the Flagstaff, and at the Mast Head of the Man-of-War.

5. When a Signal is made by the smoke of a Steamer, it is signalled, the Compass Bearing at the Yard Arm, and Distance off at the Mast Head, will be hoisted. If, when the vessel is made out, she is not a Mail Steamer, the Vessel's Distinguishing Flag will be substituted for the Compass Signal, and it will be kept flying until the Ship anchors. The Distance Signal will be kept up fifteen minutes after the Steamer is made out.

6. If the Steamer is a regular Mail Steamer a Gun will be fired, and a Ball over the English, French, or American Ensign, with the Distance off at that time, will be hoisted at the Mast Head. The Compass Signal and Signal will be kept up until the vessel anchors. The Distance Signal will be kept flying for half-an-hour, and changed at each successive half-hour to show the Distance off at those times. When the vessel is between Green Island and the Peak, the Signal will be kept up until the vessel is between Green Island and the Peak, or a green light at the East Yard Arm until she anchors.

7. River Steamers will not be signalled.

The approach of other Steamers from Macao or Canton will be made known by showing the National, or House Flag and Symbol at Yard Arm.

8. If a Flag showing that an Officer of high rank is on board an incoming vessel, a similar Flag will be shown above the Ball or the Flag alone will be hoisted at the Mast Head.

9. The approach of Men-of-War and Sailing Vessels will be notified by their proper Symbols and National Colours, or House Flags, at the Quarter of the Yard, or at the Yard Arm.

Note.—The Distances of vessels will be estimated from the Peak, and will be made by means of the Numerals which are attached to the letters in the Code of Flags.

H. G. THOMSON, R.N., Harbour Master, &c.

NAMES OF VILLAGES &c., IN OR NEAR HONGKONG. (Corrected Spelling.)

A-kung Ngam. Shan Tsun.

Ap-li Chau. Shai-wan.

Chung-shan Hom. Shai-tan Po.

Chung Hom. Shai-shu Po.

Chung Wan. Shai-shu Wan.

Fo-pang. Shai-shu.

Ho-wan. Shai-shu.

Heung-kong Tsai. Shai-shu Tsai.

(Aberdeen). Shai-shu.

Ho-kai. Shai-shu.

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Mails.

NOTICE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

PAQUEBOTS POSTE FRANÇAIS.

STEAM FOR SAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID, MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA PORTS, ALEXANDRIA, MARSEILLES, AND PORTS OF BRAZIL, AND LA PLATA.

LONDON, HAVRE, BORDEAUX, DUNKIRK AND ANTWERP.

ON THURSDAY, the 24th of May, 1888, at Noon, the Company's Steamer, 4724, Commandant VIMOREY, with MALES, PASSENGERS, SPECIES, and CARGO, will leave this Port for the above places.

Cargo and Specie will be registered for London as well as for Marseilles, and accepted in transit through Marseilles for the principal places of Europe.

Shipping Orders will be granted until 4 p.m. Specie and Parcels until 3 p.m. on the 23rd May, 1888. (Parcels are not to be sent on board; they must be left at the Agency's Office.)

Contents and value of Packages are required.

For further particulars, apply at the Company's Office.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX, Agent.

Hongkong, May 11, 1888. 782

CANADIAN PACIFIC LINE.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO JAPAN, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, AND EUROPE, VIA THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY AND OTHER CONNECTING RAILWAY LINES & STEAMERS.

THE British Steamship PORT ADAMS, LAIDE, 2731 Tons Register, Captain, will be despatched for VANCOUVER, B.C., and SAN FRANCISCO, via KOBÉ and YOKOHAMA, on FRIDAY, the 1st June, at 3 p.m.

To be followed by the S.S. PARTHIA, on the 12th June, and S.S. ABYSSINIA, on the 24th June.

Connection will be made at Yokohama with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan Ports, and at Vancouver with Pacific Coast points, by the regular Steamers of the PACIFIC COAST STEAMSHIP COMPANY and other Steamers.

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines.

First-class Fares granted as follows:—To Vancouver or Victoria, Mex \$160.00; To San Francisco, 175.00.

To all common points in Canada and the United States 200.00.

To Liverpool 300.00.

To London 305.00.

To other European ports at proportionate rates. Special reduced rates at request of Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service, and the Imperial Chinese and Japanese Governments, to be obtained on application.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to points in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Office, addressed to Mr. D. BROWN, District Freight Agent, Vancouver, B.C.

Freight will be received on board until 4 p.m. on the 31st May.

All Parcels must be sent to our Office and must be marked to address in full; and the same will be received by us until 5 p.m. the day previous to sailing.

For information as to Passage or Freight, apply to ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, May 15, 1888. 802

NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

NOTICE.

STEAM FOR SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID, BRINDISI, GENOA, ANTWERP, BREMEN & HAMBURG, PORTS IN THE LEVANT, BLACK SEA & BALTIC PORTS.

LONDON, NEW YORK, BOSTON, BALTIMORE, NEW ORLEANS, GALVESTON & SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS.

THE COMPANY'S STEAMERS WILL CALL AT SOUTHAMPTON TO LAND PASSENGERS AND CARGO.

N.B.—Cargo can be taken on through Bills of Lading for the principal places in RUSSIA.

ON WEDNESDAY, the 6th day of June, 1888, at 4 p.m., the Company's Steamer, 2622, Capt. H. SUPPER, with MALES, PASSENGERS, SPECIES, and CARGO, will leave this Port as above, calling at Genoa.

Shipping Orders will be granted till Noon, Cargo will be received on board until 4 p.m. Specie and Parcels until 3 p.m. on the 6th June, 1888. (Parcels are not to be sent on board; they must be left at the Agency's Office.) Contents and value of Packages are required.

The Steamer has splendid Accommodation and carries a Doctor and Stewardess.

For further Particulars, apply to MELOERS & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, May 14, 1888. 797

PUBLICATIONS.

CHINA REVIEW—published once in Two Months.

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